

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 ADP-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 RSR-01

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R 041044Z SEP 73

FM USINT CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3713

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 2646

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR EG LY

SUBJECT: CAIRO PRESS NOTES SEPTEMBER 1-4

1. EGYPTIAN/LIBYAN MERGER DEVELOPMENTS. SEPTEMBER 1 PASSED IN CAIRO WITH LITTLE FANFARE. THERE WERE NO SPEECHES, PARADES, OR OTHER CELEBRATIONS MARKING THE DATE SET ALMOST A YEAR AGO FOR THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF EGYPTIAN/LIBYAN UNITY. THE CAIRO PRESS RAN LONG EDITORIALS ON THE MEANING OF ARAB UNITY AND THE DECREES SIGNED THE END OF AUGUST BY SADAT AND QADHAAFI. HEADLINES IN THE PRESS WERE ALSO GIVEN TO MERGER DEVELOPMENTS. CONCRETE SIGNS OF MERGER WERE, HOWEVER, SPARSE. ON SEPTEMBER 1 PRESS ANNOUNCED JOINT DECREES FOR FORMATION OF HIGHER COUNCIL FOR NUCLEAR AND ELECTRONIC PROJECTS, EXPLAINING THAT COUNCIL'S HEADQUARTERS WOULD BE IN CAIRO AND THAT PROJECTS WOULD BE
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JOINTLY FINANCED BY EGYPT AND LIBYA. DECREE WAS ALSO PUBLISHED ESTABLISHING EGYPTIAN/LIBYAN FREE ZONE FROM TOBRUK TO MERSA

MATRUH. SEPTEMBER 2 PRESS NOTED THAT HATEM AND JALLUD HAD BEEN APPOINTED TO HIGHER PLANNING COUNCIL; COUNCIL'S FULLER MEMBERSHIP WOULD BE COMPLETED LATER, PRESS NOTED. ON SEPTEMBER 3 PRESS ANNOUNCED NAMES OF EGYPTIAN MEMBERS OF CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY; AND ON FOLLOWING DAY, AHRAM STATED THAT CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY WOULD MEET IN SESSION IN MID-SEPTEMBER. IN SEPTEMBER 1-4 PERIOD PRESS ALSO CARRIED NEWS OF GOE DELEGATION TO LIBYAN SEPTEMBER 1 FESTIVITIES, LIBYAN PARADE OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT, QADHAAFI'S ABSENCE FROM FESTIVITIES, AND JALLUD'S LATER DENIAL THAT QADHAAFI HAD RESIGNED. SEPTEMBER 2 PRESS GAVE MAJOR PLAY TO LARG'S NEWEST OIL COMPANY NATIONALIZATION.

2. GOE DELEGATION TO ALGIERS SUMMIT. SEPTEMBER 4 PRESS STATES SADAT WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY SAYYID MAR'I, HAFEZ ISMAIL, GHLEB, MINISTER OF MANPOWER GHARIB AND GHORBAL. HEGAZY IS FLYING DIRECTLY FROM MOSCOW TO ALGIERS AND ZAYYAT IS ALREADY THERE. (SAYYID MART'S NAME IS GIVEN UNUSUAL PROMINENCE IN PRESS, AND THERE ARE OTHER INDICATIONS THAT HIS STAR HAS BEGUN TO RISE AGAIN.) AHRAM STATES THAT PREPARATIONS ARE BEING MADE FOR SADAT TO MEET WITH TITO, MRS. GHANDI, NIMAIRI AND HAILE SELASSIE.

3. WALDHEIM VISIT. FOLLOWING UNSYG'S MEETING WITH SADAT ON SEPTEMBER 2, GHORBAL'S OFFICE ISSUED STATEMENT THAT SADAT HAD MADE POINTS THAT ME SITUATION WAS IN DANGER OF FLARING-UP; THAT UNSYG'S AND JARRING'S EFFORTS AS WELL AS SC RES 242 AND GOE'S POSITIVE REPLY TO FEB. 8 MEMORANDUM PROVIDED "POSSIBILITIES" FOR SUCCESS OF JARRING MISSION; THAT ON JULY 26 SC'S "UNANIMITY" ON INTERPRETATION OF 242 AS MEANING FULL WITHDRAWAL FROM ARAB TERRITORIES WAS AN "ESTABLISHED FACT" THAT US VETO COULD NOT CANCEL; AND THAT ME PROBLEM SHOULD BE SOLVED WITHIN UN FRAMEWORK.

4. IN PRESS CONFERENCE, WALDHEIM WAS ASKED ABOUT FATE OF JARRING FEB. 8 MEMORANDUM, TO WHICH HE REPORTEDLY REPLIED THAT SC RES 242 FORMED THE BASIS OF UN EFFORTS AND IS ACCEPTED BY BOTH PARTIES (EGYPT AND ISRAEL) TO CONFLICT.

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Executive Order: GS WILEY
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